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PRE-APPEAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Appeal No.: 2005-21490

Patent Application No.: 2001-511599

Examiner: Y. Tsuruya 3252 5M00

Examiner's Notice Date: January 26, 2006

A report on the application concerning this request for appeal will be given below.

REMARKS

1. [Reasons mentioned in the Decision of Rejection]

[Re: Reason 2]

- Ground Section Section 36 (4)

- Claims 1-16

- Reason why the invention cannot be patented

By the Amendment filed on December 7, 2005, the applicant amended the claims to recite "the number system having a unique digit for representing each possible value of a data element." In the Written Argument filed on the same date, the applicant argued that the technical scope of the term "number system" has been clarified.

However, it is still unclear what is referred to by the "unique digit for representing each possible value of a data element", and the correspondence between the recitation and the Detail Description of the Invention is unclear. Consequently, the technical scope of the term is unclear.

[Re: Reason 3]

- Ground Section Section 36 (6) (ii)

- Claims 1-16

- Reason why the invention cannot be patented

As stated in the above [Re: Reason 2], it is unclear what is referred to by the above-mentioned term.

2. [Reason why the invention cannot be patented other than the above reasons mentioned in the Decision of Rejection]

[Re: Section 29 (2)]

- Ground Section Section 29 (2)

- Claims 1-16

- Reference 1

- Reason why the invention cannot be patented

The invention of claim 1 and the invention described in Reference 1 are not substantially different in configurations. (Please note that Reference 1 discloses technology for converting (processing) a database (instance database) by using a unique number (attribute value) for indicating a value each data element can take on.)

There is no particular difference between the inventions of claims 2-16 and the invention described in Reference 1.

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References Cited:

1. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 7-182368

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(Formalities -- Translation Omitted)